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Single-crystal study of $U(Co_{1-x}T_x)Al$ compounds for T = Fe and Ni

- B. Janoušová¹, A.V. Andreev², J. Šebek², Y. Homma³, Y. Shiokawa³, V. Sechovský¹
 - ¹ Charles University, DES, CZ-121 16 Praha 2, The Czech Republic
 - ² Institute of Physics ASCR, CZ-182 21 Praha 8, The Czech Republic
 - ³ Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

UCoAl exhibits a unique magnetic behavior with a paramagnetic ground state, although the c-axis susceptibility shows a maximum around $T_{\rm max}\approx 20$ K. The ground state can be easily destabilized towards ferromagnetic ordering of U moments either by applying a c-axis oriented magnetic field ($B_c < 1$ T) or by substituting U, Co or Al by suitable elements. We will present first single-crystal study of U(Co_{1-x}T_x)Al compounds for T = Fe (x = 0.05) and Ni (x = 0.05 and 0.1). Magnetization (M) and specific-heat (C) measurements were done in the temperature range of 2 – 300 K and in fields up to 12 T. In all cases we have confirmed the strong uniaxial anisotropy with magnetic response concentrated along the c-axis that is typical for UCoAl and its hexagonal UTX counterparts. The Ni substitution yields gradual increase of B_c whereas UCo_{0.95}Fe_{0.05}Al is ferromagnetic below 30 K. To explain these results a scenario will be discussed considering the dual role of 5f - 3d hybridisation in the physics of UCoAl (causing a 5f moment delocalization and on the other hand, mediating indirect exchange interactions between U moments). A comparative analysis of specific heat data obtained on these compounds and pure UCoAl allow extracting contributions due to spin-fluctuations.